

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 H-03

SS-20 NSC-07 /131 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
APPROVED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 120522

R 302200Z AUG 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 30 REMARKS OF
SECRETARY KISSINGER AND MINISTER SAQQAF.

FOR MEPC DEL
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMANS PRESS BRIEFING AUGUST 30, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE A JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE
SAQQAF MEETING?

A. NO, THERE WAS NO COMMUNIQUE OR JOINT STATEMENT PLANNED.

Q. IS THE OFFICIAL PART OF MR. SAQQAF'S VISIT OVER. IS
THAT IT? HE WILL NOT SEE THE SECRETARY ANY MORE TODAY?
OR GO TO THE WHITE HOUSE?

A. NO. I BELIEVE THIS IS THE END, AND HE IS DUE TO LEAVE
THIS AFTERNOON.

Q. BEFORE YOU GET OFF THAT SUBJECT, MR. SAQQAF SAID THAT
THE SECRETARY IS VERY GENEROUS. WHAT IS THE SECRETARY
GIVING AWAY?

A. I M NOT AWARE THAT HE GAVE AWAY ANYTHING.

A. I'M NOT AWARE THAT HE GAVE AWAY ANYTHING.

Q. WELL, WHAT'S THE GENEROSITY?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM, AT LEAST, THAT THEY DISCUSSED OIL?
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A. I CANNOT MAKE ANY COMMENT OTHER THAN WHAT THE SECRE-
TARY MADE TO YOU ALL DOWNSTAIRS JUST NOW ON THAT SUBJECT.

Q. I ASKED YESTERDAY ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAD ANY
OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION ABOUT THE RUSSIANS PLAYING WITH
THEIR WATER PISTOLS ON THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. DO WE
HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. YES, WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS REGARDING EXCHANGES BETWEEN SOVIET MINESWEEPERS AND ISRAELI VESSELS.

Q. WHAT WAS THE EXCHANGE FOR?

A. AS FAR AS ANY SHOOTING BEING INVOLVED, AS FAR AS OUR INFORMATION IS CONCERNED, THE ANSWER IS NO. AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL EXCHANGES OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, OR SEVERAL DAYS.

Q. WHO IS WINNING?

A. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN RAISED WITH THE U.N. AND IN ANY CASE, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE SOVIET MINESWEEPING OPERATION IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA WHERE THESE EXCHANGES OCCURRED HAS PROBABLY BEEN COMPLETED.

Q. WHO RAISED THE PROBLEM WITH THE U.N.?

A. IT IS JUST OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN RAISED WITH THE U.N. I DO NOT KNOW WHO SPECIFICALLY RAISED IT WITH THE U.N. END QUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE OF THE REMARKS OF THE SECRETARY AND MINISTER SAAQAF FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUGUST 30, 1974:

QUOTE: FOREIGN MINISTER SAQQAF: BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON I WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS. I CAN SAY THAT AFTER THIS SHORT VISIT WHICH I HAVE PAID TO THE UNITED STATES IN WHICH I HAVE STAYED IN WASHINGTON, I SPENT MOST OF THE TIME UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH FRIENDS. AMONG THEM THE FIRST FRIEND OF THEM IS MY FRIEND HENRY, WHOM I MET SEVERAL TIMES AND WE HAD LONG TALKS ABOUT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST

QUESTION, ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. I HAD THE HONOR YESTERDAY TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT FORD. I WENT OUT WITH THE IMPRESSION OF SEEING NO CHANGE IN THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AFTER SEEING HIM TAKING OVER AS PRESIDENT. I FOUND HIM AN HONEST, UP TO THE POINT PERSON AND I LEFT VERY PLEASED FROM THAT MEETING. I CAN SAY ALSO THAT MY FRIEND DR. HENRY KISSINGER WAS AS USUAL VERY FRIENDLY AND FRANK AND GENEROUS IN ALL DISCUSSIONS. EVERYTHING WENT SMOOTHLY. I THINK WE ARE IN AGREEMENT IN ALL THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE DISCUSSED. BEFORE LEAVING, I THANK THE PRESIDENT, I THANK MY FRIEND HENRY,

I THANK EVERY PERSON IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I CANNOT ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS SAID SO ELOQUENTLY. FROM THE UNITED STATES POINT OF VIEW WE CONSIDERED THE MEETINGS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE. WE HAVE MADE EVEN FURTHER PROGRESS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND WE HAD VERY CONSTRUCTIVE TALKS ABOUT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH I BELIEVE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROGRESS WE ALL DESIRE. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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